

MINUTES

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 56th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

JOINT APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON LONG-RANGE PLANNING

Call to Order: By **CHAIRMAN ERNEST BERGSAGEL**, on March 12, 1999
at 7:30 A.M., in Room 317 Capitol.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Rep. Ernest Bergsagel, Chairman (R)
Sen. Tom A. Beck, Vice Chairman (R)
Sen. J.D. Lynch (D)
Rep. Matt McCann (D)
Sen. Chuck Swysgood (R)
Rep. Tom Zook (R)

Members Excused: None.

Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: Cassandra Drynan, Committee Secretary
Jane Hamman, OBPP
Pam Joehler, Legislative Branch

Please Note: These are summary minutes. Testimony and
discussion are paraphrased and condensed.

Committee Business Summary:

Hearing(s) & Date(s) Posted:

Executive Action: **HOUSE BILL 15 - INFORMATION
TECHNOLOGY BOND PROPOSAL**

HOUSE BILL 15 - EXECUTIVE ACTION

CHAIRMAN BERGSAGEL reviewed HB 15.

{Tape : 1; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 0 - 0.5}

Motion: SEN. BECK moved that THE FUNDING FOR HB 15 BE REDUCED
FROM \$25 MILLION TO \$18 MILLION.

{Tape : 1; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 0.6 - 0.8}

Ms. Mary Bryson, Department of Revenue, explained to the committee that this reduction would mean that they may need to return to the legislature the next session to ask for additional funds.

SEN. LYNCH asked if the department would look somewhere besides New Deli India for development of the new system.

SEN. SWYSGOOD asked if the department would be able to complete the project with the proposed \$18 million.

Ms. Bryson responded that they would have to do some work in-house and it would take longer.

{Tape : 1; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 0.8 - 4.6}

CHAIRMAN BERGSAGEL spoke about the amendments from the department **EXHIBIT**(j1h56a01) and recommended that the committee adopt them.

Motion/Vote: **SEN. SWYSGOOD** moved to **ADOPT THE AMMENDMENTS IN EXHIBIT 1. Motion carried unanimously.**

{Tape : 1; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 4.6 - 5.3}

REP. MCCANN commented that the Department of Revenue(DOR)does a decent job running their operation and asked them if it was necessary to ask for \$18 million now or if they could spread out their request over a few sessions. **CHAIRMAN BERGSAGEL** responded.

Vote: The question was called for on **SEN. BECK'S** motion to reduce the funding for **HB 15** from \$25 million to \$18 million.

Motion carried with SEN. LYNCH and CHAIRMAN BERGSAGEL voting no.

Motion/Vote: **SEN. BECK** moved **DO PASS HB 15 AS AMENDED. Motion failed with SEN. BECK, SEN. SWYSGOOD and REP. ZOOK voting yes.**

{Tape : 1; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 5.3 - 8.8}

SEN. BECK asked how much money was already tied up in this project.

SEN. LYNCH asked why they couldn't do more work in-house and just take longer.

Ms. Bryson responded that they couldn't do everything in-house and that the contract with TATA Infotech was necessary for the Information Technologies.

SEN. SWYSGOOD asked when the computer systems would crash if they were not updated and how long it would take to get the new system on line if they do get the money.

{Tape : 1; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 8.8 - 14.2}

Motion: REP. MCCANN moved DO PASS HOUSE BILL 15 AS AMENDED.

Discussion followed.

{Tape : 1; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 15 - 15.9}

SEN. SWYSGOOD commented that from personal experience he had seen the benefit of new technology.

SEN. LYNCH expressed his frustrations with the DOR.

SEN. BECK commented that he believed that the DOR needed the high technology computers to continue functioning.

{Tape : 1; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 15.6 - 20.2}

CHAIRMAN BERGSAGEL commented that the government was doing just fine and that it was the communities that were suffering and for this he wouldn't support this bill.

SEN. SWYSGOOD commented that the legislature was trying to help the community with tax relief.

{Tape : 1; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 20.2 - 23.2}

Vote: The question was called on REP. MCCANN'S motion to Pass as amended HB 15. Motion carried with SEN. LYNCH and CHAIRMAN BERGSAGEL voting no.

{Tape : 1; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 25.5}

HOUSE BILL 15 - EXECUTIVE ACTION - CLOSED

See **EXHIBIT**(j1h56a02) for HOUSE BILL 15 amendments.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 8:00 A.M.

REP. ERNEST BERGSAGEL, Chairman

CASSANDRA DRYNAN, Secretary

EB/CD

EXHIBIT (j1h56aad)